

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10404

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJ: COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT: MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

REF: STATE 188799

1. I WENT YESTERDAY TO ALEXANDRIA TO DELIVER SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO FAHMY ON PUERTO RICO AND KOREA. FRG AMBASSADOR STELTZER HAD JUST BEEN IN TO SEE FAHMY TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ON KOREA FOR THE CORE GROUP. HENCE, FAHMY RATHER EXPECTED THE PURPOSE OF MY CALL. AFTER READING THE LETTER, HE COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS:

2. PUERTO RICO: HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD OUR VIEWS ON PUERTO RICO AND SAID HE WOULD ARGUE AGAINST ANY EFFORT TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT AS INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A FRIENDLY STATE.

3. KOREA: ON KOREA HE WAS SOMEWHAT FLIPPANT. HE PROFESSED TO RIDICULE THE IDEA OF A CORE GROUP AND RELATED THAT HE HAD ASKED THE FRG AMBASSADOR WHAT INTERESTS WEST GERMANY HAS IN FAR OFF KOREA. IT WAS SIMPLY ACTING AT THE BEHEST OF THE USG. FRG SHOULD INSTEAD ESTABLISH CORE GROUP IN MIDDLE EAST AND PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE SEARCH FOR A JUST AND DURABLE MIDDLE EAST PEACE. (STELTZER HAS GENERALLY CONFIRMED THESE COMMENTS --- SEPTTEL.)

4. FAHMY REITERATED WHAT HE HAD TOLD ME EARLIER, NAMELY
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THAT OUR REQUEST POSES PROBLEMS FOR GOE. HE

RECOGNIZED IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE TO USG, BUT GOE ALSO HAS OTHER CONSIDERATIONS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT. NORTH KOREA, HE INSISTED, IS INDEPENDENT, NATIONALIST, AND DOES NOT TAKE ORDERS FROM EITHER THE PRC OR THE SOVIETS. GOE HAS HAD LONG EXPERIENCE WITH DPRK. IT IS CONVINCED THAT IF THERE IS ANY CHANCE OF AN AGREEMENT, THE NORTH KOREANS WOULD ACCEPT IT. UNFORTUNATELY, THE NORTH KOREANS SUSPECT THE USG, TOGETHER WITH THE ROK, HARBORS AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS. MOREOVER, DPRK LACKS SELF-CONFIDENCE. GOE, HE THOUGHT, CAN HELP BUILD NORTH KOREAN SELF-CONFIDENCE, SINCE THE TWO GOVTS ARE GOOD FRIENDS.

5. WITHOUT REJECTING OUR PROPOSAL, FAHMY ARGUED THAT WE HAVE NOT HANDLED THE NORTH KOREANS WELL. WE SHOULD CONSIDER A DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH THEM TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING ISSUES. I VIGOROUSLY DISPUTED HIS CONTENTION. WE HAD TRIED BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS TO URGE A RESUMPTION OF THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO KOREAS, BUT AS HE KNEW FULL WELL, THE NORTH KOREANS HAVE REFUSED. IT IS NORTH KOREA THAT IS THREATENING ROK RATHER THAN OTHER WAY AROUND. AS YOUR PROPOSAL INDICATED, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE RESUMPTION OF A NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE IS DESIRABLE. ALTERNATIVELY, A FOUR POWER CONFERENCE COULD ALSO DISCUSS THE ISSUE. IN OUR VIEW, THE US PROPOSALS ARE FLEXIBLE AND, WHILE THE INTERESTS OF THE ROK MUST AND WILL BE FULLY SAFEGUARDED, OUGHT TO OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL PARTIES WHO GENUINELY DESIRE AND EASING OF TENSIONS TO FIND A WAY TO DO SO.

6. FAHMY DID NOT DISPUTE THE FAIRNESS OF OUR PROPOSALS, BUT CLEARLY DOUBTED THE LIKELIHOOD THAT NORTH KOREANS WOULD FIND THEM ACCEPTABLE. HE NOTED THAT PERCEPTIONS DIFFER AND, AS HE HAD EARLIER TOLD US, THAT THE NORTH KOREANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT USG/ROK DESIGNS. WHILE HE SAID NOTHING ABOUT GOE WILLINGNESS TO MEDIATE OR ACT AS A CHANNEL BETWEEN THE INTERESTED PARTIES, AS HE DID WITH STELTZER, HE SEIZED UPON THE IDEA THAT THE UN COMMAND MIGHT BE ABOLISHED IF THE ARMISTICE COULD SOMEHOW BE MAINTAINED. HE WONDERED IF SOME AGREEMENT MIGHT BE FOUND ON SOME SORT OF MACHINERY TO KEEP THE ARMISTICE, INCLUDING AN CONFIDENTIAL

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OBSERVER GROUP OF NATIONS, TO INSURE THAT THIS IS THE CASE. EGYPT WOULD BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A GROUP.

7. COMMENT: BOTH STELTZER AND I GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT FAHMY WOULD LIKE TO FIND A FEASIBLE WAY OUT OF GOE'S DILEMMA, BUT IS STILL CASTING ABOUT FOR WAYS TO DO SO. CLEARLY, THE BASIC CONSIDERATIONS WHICH HE EARLIER MENTIONED TO US STILL APPLY SO FAR AS GOE IS CONCERNED (CAIRO 6000).

GOE REMAINS BEHOLDEN TO DPRK FOR AT LEAST SOME MILITARY SPARE PARTS AND ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT THIS CONTINUE. I SUSPECT THAT HIS IDEA OF THE ARMISTICE BEING SAFEGUARDED BY AN OBSERVER GROUP OF NATIONS WAS AND OFF-THE-TOP-OF-HIS-HEAD OPINION PROMPTED BY STELTZER'S EARLIER COMMENT ABOUT OUR WILLINGNESS TO ABOLISH THE UN COMMAND IF THE ARMISTICE CAN SOMEHOW BE MAINTAINED. I DOUBT THAT HE HAS THOUGHT THROUGH THIS IDEA.

8. I REMAIN SOMEWHAT PUZZLED AT FAHMY'S APPARENT CONVICTION THAT THE NORTH KOREANS ARE SINCERE WHEN THEY EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT ALLEGEDLY HOSTILE USG/ROK INTENTIONS. IT IS SURPRISING THAT AS CYNICAL A MAN AS FAHMY WOULD TAKE THIS AT FACE VALUE, BUT I SUSPECT HE KNOWS VERY LITTLE ABOUT WHAT IS ACTUALLY GOING ON IN THE KOREAN BORDER AREAS. IT MIGHT BE USEFUL, AS A MEANS OF ALTERING FAHMY'S APPARENT IMPRESSION, IF WE COULD PROVIDE SOME INFORMATION ON RECENT NORTH KOREAN PERPETRATED INCIDENTS ALONG THE BORDER AND OTHER EVIDENCE OF AGGRESSIVE DPRK ACTIONS AGAINST ITS SOUTHERN NEIGHBOR.

9. SUGGEST DEPT PASS THIS MESSAGE TO USUN.
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